7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

236 the tail, and in many cases not even all the "clippable" wool is taken from the body and legs. It is suggested, therefore, that one or more Australian wool clippers be recruited to teach several Iraqis, preferably shepherds, the proper way to secure a maximum clip. These trained clippers, who would be in government service, would then be assigned to clipping sheds which, with proper shearing equipment, should be established in one or two of the main sheep areas, starting, perhaps, with Samawa and Aqra. The tribes would be encouraged to bring their sheep to these sheds where they would be clipped for a small fee in cash or in kind. The sheds could at the same time be used as wool grading stations so that livestock owners could easily see which type of animals pays them best. They might also serve as centers for the collection of goat hair for export. In addition to the stationary clipping sheds, one mobile unit might be tried. The cost of these shearing units, which might be either hand or power driven, would be very small.

235 **Poultry and Eggs**

Poultry, which take a very secondary place in the livestock picture of the average village, are generally of nondescript breeds and feed themselves primarily through uncontrolled scavenging supplemented by an occasional handful of grain. No thought is given to breeding a better type bird or a bird which will produce larger eggs over a longer laying season. Yet the possibility of developing better and more productive poultry through proper feeding and management has already been demonstrated by work carried on by the government. In the future, poultry units should be established for demonstration and breeding purposes on all government agricultural stations. Experimental work on the control of parasites and on the construction of cheap poultry houses out of locally available materials should be carried on at Abu Ghuraib, Bakrajo and possibly Basra. Farmers should be asked to come and observe the results of good management and to draw better breeding stock from these agricultural stations. One or two of the larger farmers might be encouraged to undertake the raising of poultry on a large scale as an experiment. There will certainly be a growing domestic market for poultry and eggs, and it may ultimately be possible to cater to the markets of Gulf ports and the oil company settlements in the Middle East.